From: Rick Runowski
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 7:29pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like a chance to comment on the proposed Microsoft
Settlement. I agree with Dan Kegl's web site < www.kegel.com/remedy/ > in
most aspects and believe it should be seriously considered before
finalizing this Settlement.

I have been working in the computer industry for almost 10 years
now. I am also a computer science student attending Oklahoma State
University. I primarily run Linux at home, and use Microsoft Windows NT,
2000, 98, Me and Unix at work and at school. I work at a major
computer component manufacturer as a supervisor, and have experience in
supporting multiple operating systems.

Some points that I would like to emphasize:

<www.kegel.com/remedy/remedy2.html>

"PFJ Section II: Prohibited Conduct
J. This agreement lets Microsoft keep secret anything having to do
with security or copy protection." If Microsoft is allowed to continue to
keep their security flaws from the public, how are we supposed to know
how to defend our systems. Microsoft's OS has a history of insecurity,
and Microsoft has made a point to deal with security issues as public
relation problems. In order to refute this claim Mr. Gates made a press
release stating that Microsoft would focus on security, and make it the
"highest priority". <
http://slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=02/01/17/0259234&mode=thread > This
clearly suggests that they will, in the future, continue to treat security
flaws and issues and a public relations problem.

"PFJ Section VI: Definitions
A. "API" (Application Programming Interface) is defined as only the
interfaces between Microsoft Middleware and Microsoft Windows,
excluding Windows APIs used by other application programs." APIs cannot
be limited to "Middleware". All Microsoft API's that are used for non-OS
functions should be clearly outlined and documented for alternate program
vendors to use. Anything otherwise will give (and has given) Microsoft a
competitive edge against program vendors. Please note that I'm not
suggesting Microsoft be forced to give away the APIs used solely for the
design and implementation of their OS. Only those that are used to create
non-OS software.

This final point does however create a problem of defining OS
software and non-OS software. An operating system is defined as a program
that lies between the user and the hardware. The Operating System should
then be limited to that which is required for the user to interface with
the hardware. This would explicitly leave out Media Player, Outlook,
Internet Explorer, and many other programs Microsoft has not yet begun to
capitalize on by including it in their "OS".

These are only two of many oversights in the proposed Settlement.
Please carefully reconsider your position and rewrite this agreement to be
more specific and binding. If there are any questions regarding this
mail feel free to contact me using any of the information below.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Rick Runowski
11103 N. Chatburn Ln.
Stillwater Ok. 74075
(405) 410-1425 Cellular
runowsk@a.cs.okstate.edu

CC: governor@gov.state.ok.us@inetgw,senator@nickles.se...